

active units as they are required. A very large reorganization has taken place in connection with the whole system of reinforcement units. As a matter of fact, the establishment of reinforcement units themselves, and the staff for their administration, have been very greatly enlarged in the last few months particularly because of the fact that we are preparing for the new organization which is taking place to provide for a more rapid assimilation of these men and for the better training of them so that they may be available that much more quickly and may be in better shape for the units to which they go.

Mr. STIRLING: Many hundreds are brought back for instructional purposes?

Mr. RALSTON: Yes. That is with regard to the reinforcements. Three or four weeks ago I made a statement which was correct, and I am only repeating to-night what I said then.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I am interested in this question of reinforcements, and that is about the only topic which I wish to discuss with the minister to-night. There has been a series of articles running in the press of one of the western provinces; and while I am not vouching for the accuracy of the figures there given, they are based in part at least upon a statement made by the minister on February 10 last and upon statements appearing in the little coloured books that come from the Department of National War Services. The minister will recall that on February 10, as reported at page 449 of *Hansard*, he made this statement:

In the army to date over 295,000 men have been enlisted and its actual strength is over 255,000.

The difference is accounted for by wastage. Peace-time wastage has been about 40,000 men, and I must say I think that is a large figure having regard to the fact that these men have not been under fire. But I am not disputing the accuracy of that or the reason for it. Later on, as reported at page 451 the minister said:

It should be remembered that apart from the fourth division and the brigade groups of the sixth division, we have in Canada over 90,000 active service personnel in training centres and elsewhere.

Therefore, according to the minister's figures, there were in the active army overseas a certain number, and by process of deduction I estimate the figure at 135,000. I will not ask the minister to give exact figures; I would not attempt to quote these figures were it not for the fact that he made reference to them, and reference is

also made to them in the leaflets "Canada At War." The figures are 135,000 men overseas, and 120,000 in Canada. The figures given by the minister are about the same figures as given by the government publications. The last one I have had occasion to examine is now a little obsolete—February 1, 1942—in which this statement appears:

The Canadian active army is composed of more than 265,000 men, about half of whom are serving outside of Canada.

A certain number of these men outside Canada were at certain strategic points not in the United Kingdom. I have no means of knowing just how many were in the colonies, but let us say as an estimate—and perhaps I am not very far wrong—that these number 5,000 men. That may not be accurate, I do not know. As I say, I have no means of knowing.

Mr. RALSTON: How many did my hon. friend say?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I am estimating that 5,000 were not in the United Kingdom. That would leave 130,000 in Britain. What is the disposition of these 130,000 men in Britain? According to the same report, or one number of this series of reports, it is stated:

Canada now has in Britain the first, second, third and fifth (armoured) divisions, a tank brigade and a large force of ancillary troops.

That gives a running picture of the troops over there.

In every division there is a postal unit, a provost company, a field hygiene section, dental detachments, a salvage unit, a mobile bath, and other services to care for the needs of 17,000 men. Behind are a host of corps and army troops numbering at least half the strength of the divisions themselves.

Thus it would appear to me—and I make this calculation myself—that in the four divisions and tank brigades we have approximately 70,000 men, and in the corps and army troops 35,000, or a total of 105,000 men; and the ancillary troops, are, as I apprehend, not connected with the fighting services at all. They are such as the forestry corps, engineer units engaged in tunneling and road building, very large headquarters staffs in London, pay and postal services, and I have seen that estimated at 12,500. These figures are only approximate. They may be away out of line with the truth. I do not know, and I have not taken the trouble to have the figures verified by headquarters, nor have I asked the minister to give them. If, however, I am anywhere near right, it leaves a very small number of men in the holding units for reinforcement purposes in England.